

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, PK
SUBJ: AIPS MEETING

REF: STATE 240907

1. EMBASSY UNABLE TO GIVE CONCLUSIVE ANSWER TO DEPARTMENT'S QUESTION ON GOP REACTION TO REORGANIZATION OF AIPS AND PARTICULARLY IF ANY CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION SHOULD EXCLUDE MALIK. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE MALIK WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN OBTAINING GOP FUNDING. HE ACCOMPLISHED THIS THROUGH PERSONAL CONTACT WITH RPRIME MINISTER WHICH WAS ARRANGED THROUGH MALIK'S OLD SCHOOL BUDDY, BRIG. IMTIAZ ALI, MILITARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER. WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MUCH INFLUENCE MALIK HAS WITH BHUTTO BUT WE BELIEVE THERE IS NO DEEP PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP. FROM WHAT WE KNOW OF THE BACKGROUND OF AIPS, THE PM ORIGINALLY BECAME INTERESTED IN THE AIPS PROJECT BECAUSE HE SAW IT AS A MEANS OF IMPROVING PAKISTAN'S IMAGE AMONG SCHOLARS AND THE AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY. AT VERY LEAST HE HOPED TO DIVERT SOME AMERICAN SCHOLARLY INTEREST AWAY FROM INDIA (WHERE IT HAD BEEN CONCENTRATED FOR MANY YEARS) AND TOWARDS PAKISTAN. WE THINK THIS IS PROBABLY STILL THE BASIC MOTIVATION FOR GOP SUPPORT.

2. GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE AIPS ACTIVITIES NOW ARE IN THEIR SECOND YEAR AND A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF EXCHANGES HAVE BEEN ARRANGED WITH REASONABLY GOOD RESULTS, WE THINK THERE IS SOME
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POSSIBILITY THAT THE GOP WILL

BE INTERESTED IN CONTINUING ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE FUNDING ON THE BASIS OF THE PROGRAM'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND NOT BECAUSE OF MALIK'S INVOLVEMENT. WE KNOW THAT HE DOES NOT HAVE MANY SUPPORTERS IN THE BUREAUCRACY. HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR HIS ENTREE TO THE PM HE PROBABLY WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SECURE

FINANCING.

3. WE WOULD NOT WISH TO JEOPARDIZE THE PROGRAM UNNECESSARILY BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THE JOINT-FUNDING IS AN IMPORTANT BREAKTHROUGH WHICH MAY PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE AND MEANINGFUL EXCHANGES. IF MALIK WERE SHUNTED ASIDE HE MIGHT BECOME ANTAGONISTIC TO THE PROGRAM ALTHOUGH WE DOUBT IT. HOWEVER, TO AVOID THIS POSSIBILITY IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE TO ARRANGE SOME KIND OF FACE-SAVING POSITION WHICH WOULD RECOGNIZE HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE FORMATION OF AIPS BUT REMOVE HIM FROM THE ACTUAL OPERATIONS, THE AREA WHERE HIS IRREPRESSIBILITY CAUSES MOST OF THE PRESENT PROBLEMS.

4. MALIK IS CURRENTLY IN PAKISTAN AND EXPECTS TO SEE THE PM SOMETIME SOON PRESUMABLY TO REPORT ON THE PROGRAM AND TO SEEK CONTINUATION OF THE GOP FUNDS. WERE HE TO BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE WHILE HERE, THIS MIGHT BE VERY EMBARRASSING TO HIM AND COULD REDUCE THE CREDIBILITY OF AIPS WITH THE GOP. WE SUGGEST THAT ANY MEETINGS ON REORGANIZATION SHOULD BE SCHEDULED TO PERMIT MALIK'S PARTICIPATION. IF CHANGES ARE EFFECTED WITH HIM PRESENT THEY WOULD APPEAR TO THE GOP TO BE PART OF AN ORDERLY PROCESS AND PERHAPS BE LESS LIKELY TO PROVOKE MALIK'S RESENTMENT.

5. THE DEPARTMENT'S LETTER NOTING THE NEED FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND FORMALIZATION OF THE AIPS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DEPARTMENT HAS PROBABLY JUST REACHED MALIK. WE HAVE NOT HAD ANY RECENT CONTACT WITH HIM SINCE HE APPEARED BRIEFLY AT THE FULBRIGHT BOARD MEETING THREE WEEKS AGO. HE PLANS TO BE IN ISLAMABAD SOON, WHEN HE OBTAINS A CONFIRMED APPOINTMENT WITH BHUTTO, AND HE HAS TOLD US HE WILL VISIT THE EMBASSY AT THAT TIME.

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